



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective Date:
Volume:	II	Intake, Investigation and Response	
Chapter:	B	Intake	8-17-93
Subchapter:	1	Processing Specific Referrals	
Issuance:	400	Reports of Children Having Sexually Transmitted Diseases	

Reporting Sexually Transmitted Disease to the Department of Health 93

8-17-

While it is recognized that not all reports of children having sexually transmitted diseases (STD) fall into the categories of suspected abuse or neglect, CP&P does have the responsibility to ensure that all reports of children having sexually transmitted disease are made to the State Department of Health for appropriate epidemiological follow-up to prevent the spread of the disease.

- If CP&P receives a report from a source mandated to report STD -- a physician, nurse, other persons treating a venereal disease (N.J.S.A. 26:4-38), any state, county, or municipal hospital, sanatorium, or other public or private institutions (N.J.S.A. 26:4-39) -- the Worker asks if the referral to the Department of Health has been made. If it has not, the source is reminded of the legal requirement to report STD to the Department of Health. CP&P may offer to make the report.
- If CP&P receives a report from a source who is not mandated to report, the Worker takes immediate action to ensure that the child receives a complete medical examination. If the child has STD, the Worker reminds the examining facility of the legal requirement to report STD to the Department of Health and/or offers to make the report.
- If the Worker makes the report to the Unit Supervisor of the appropriate office of the Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, the Worker provides the Department of Health with the name, age, and address of the child, the nature of the disease and the possible source of infection.

The Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, provides epidemiological services as necessary and consultation for the CP&P Worker on appropriate treatment and/or tests for the child. See Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, [CP&P-V-A-5-1000](#).

Reports From the Department of Health of Sexually Transmitted Disease 8-17-93

The Department of Health's reports of suspected child abuse to CP&P include the following:

- Children under the age of 12 with a sexually transmitted disease when intra-familial sexual abuse is suspected. Parents are advised of the referral to CP&P and the possibility that CP&P may contact the family. Adolescents between 12 and 18 are referred to CP&P if intra-familial sexual abuse is suggested during the epidemiologic investigation. The adolescent is told of the referral to CP&P and the possibility of CP&P contacting the family.
- Cases in which parental neglect may have contributed to the child contracting an STD.
- Children who have contracted an STD as a result of sexually active behaviors with peers, if parental neglect is suspected.
- Third party sexual abuse of children (non-family or caregiver), if parental neglect is suspected.

Private physicians are expected to refer suspected cases of abuse/neglect to CP&P. However, if a referral has not been made, the Department of Health will make the referral.